Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar University, Agra, affiliated to and financed by the University Grants Commission;

(b) whether there is any provision to reduce this period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, particularly in respect of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar University, Agra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) According to information furnished by Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar University, Agra, the minimum period for which a candidate has to pursue his research is 24 months with effect from the date of application. The period spent on work done under the co-supervisor, if any, is also taken into account for this purpose.

This period of 24 months is reduced to 12 months in the case of candidates holding M.Phil, degree in the subject concerned. The Vice Chancellor of the University, on the recommendation of the supervisor and the Internal expert, is competent to reduce the period upto six months only for submitting the thesis. In case the candidate fails to submit the thesis within the curtailed period, the curtailment granted to him stands automatically cancelled and he has to submit the thesis within one year from the date of curtailment order.

Theft of Computers in KVs

† 985 SHRI BACHANI LAKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been reports of theft of computers from Kcndriya Vidyalayas in Delhi and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard: and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There have been some reports of theft of computers in Kendriya Vidyalayas in Delhi and other parts of the country. Police is investigating in these cases and the outcome of Police investigations is awaited.

Directorate of Distance Education in Universities

† 986. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to establish distance education directorates in all the universities;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (b) The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has been charged with the responsibility of promotion, coordination and maintenance of standard in open and distance education system in the country. For this purpose, under the IGNOU Act, 1985, a Distance Education Council (DEC) has been set up as statutory authority. DEC has requested all the Universities to establish a Directorate to encourage distance education. Since setting-up of such Directorates require the Universities to pass a Resolution with the approval of statutory and other authorities, no definite time-frame can be indicated. However, efforts are being made to promote and encourage Open and Distance Learning System in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.